

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7607

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DA, SP, PO GR, TU

SUBJ: DANISH VIEWS ON SPAIN, PORTUGAL, GREECE AND TURKEY

1. DURING MY INITIAL CALL ON FONMIN K.B. ANDRSEN SEPT. 3,
I INQUIRED AS TO PRESENT ATTITUDE OF DANISH GOVT TOWARD
SO-CALLED ANTI-DEMOCRATIC REGIMES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE.
I NOTED THAT IN NORWAY, FROM WHERE I HAD JUST COME, I
HAD RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT IN CASE OF SPAIN AT LEAST,
THERE WOULD BE A MUCH DIFFERENT ATTITUDE AFTER FRANCO WAS
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GONE. WAS THAT ALSO TRUE IN DENMARK? IN RESPONSE,

FONMIN MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS.

2. SPAIN. THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE A CHANGE IN DANISH OPINION ONCE FRANCO WAS NO LONGER ON THE SCENE, BUT IT WAS HARD TO PREDICT THE EXTENT OF THAT CHANGE. MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON THE SUCCESSOR REGIME'S POLICIES, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE MONARCH. SPAIN DID NOT SEEM TO WANT TO JOIN THE EC AT THIS TIME, ONLY NATO. IT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE QUITE A SHIFT IN DANISH OPINION TO MAKE SPAIN ACCEPTABLE AS A PARTNER IN THE ALLIANCE, AND HE SUSPECTED THAT THE SAME WAS TRUE IN OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS NORWAY AND THE NETHERLANDS.

3. PORTUGAL. DANISH RELATIONS WITH THIS ALLIANCE PARTNER WERE OF COURSE STRAINED BY THE COLONIAL PROBLEM IN AFRICA. AGAIN THIS SITUATION WAS NOT UNIQUE TO DENMARK. IN FAIRNESS, HE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE PORTUGUESE POSITION HAD NOT BEEN EXPLAINED WELL IN DENMARK, PARTLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE MOST RECENT PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN ELDERLY, PARTLY DEAF, LARGELY INARTICULATE, AND NOT VERY OFTEN HERE. HE WAS GLAD TO SAY THAT A NEW PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR HAD JUST ARRIVED AND WOULD BE CALLING ON HIM LATER IN THE DAY. HE HOPED THAT THE NEW MAN WOULD BE ABLE TO PRESENT HIS COUNTRY'S POSITION CLEARLY.

4. GREECE. AMBASSADORS WERE ABOUT TO BE EXCHANGED AND THIS SHOULD LEAD TO SOME IMPROVEMENT. MUCH OF COURSE DEPENDED ON THE ACTIONS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN ATHENS. THE NEW DANISH AMBASSADOR (COMING FROM OSLO) WAS VERY GOOD AND SHOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN GREECE, ALTHOUGH THE DANISH ROLE WOULD FOR SOME TIME CONTINUE TO BE A MODEST ONE. (COMMENT: HAVING KNOWN THE DANISH AMBASSADOR SLIGHTLY IN OSLO, I AM NOT INCLINED TO SHARE THE FONMIN'S HIGH REGARD FOR HIM.)

5. TURKEY. THE TURKS WERE ALWAYS TELLING THE DANES -- AND PRESUMABLY OTHERS -- "YOU MUST GIVE US A CHANCE TO MAKE THIS SYSTEM WORK." ANDERSEN THOUGHT THAT THAT WAS PROBABLY ALL THAT COULD BE DONE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS THAT ANY CHANGES WOULD BE

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FOR THE BETTER.

6. COMMENT: I DO NOT YET KNOW ANDERSEN WELL ENOUGH TO JUDGE HOW MUCH OF WHAT HE SAID WAS WHAT HE THOUGHT I WANTED TO HEAR. HIS VIEWS ON THESE COUNTRIES SEEM ON THE SURFACE FAIRLY MODERATE FOR A SCANDINAVIAN SOCIALIST. BUT HE IS OF COURSE THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THAT HAS PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED TO TEMPERING HIS VIEWS.

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